

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 01567 161548Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1191

S E C R E T CARACAS 1567

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR SHUM OAS VE NU
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO PEREZ LETTER ON NICARAGUA

REF: CARACAS 1201

1. I FEEL COMPELLED TO RECORD ONCE MORE MY VERY SERIOUS CONCERN AT THE CONTINUED DELAY IN REPLYING TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' JANUARY 31 LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON NICARAGUA. THE CONSIDERATIONS ARE THESE: THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION HAS BEEN OF THE SAME GENERAL LEVEL OF CONCERN AND WORRY TO PEREZ AS THE HORN OF AFRICA HAS BEEN TO US. FOR THAT REASON, PEREZ IMMEDIATELY RESORTED TO A "CONSULTATION" LETTER BECAUSE OF WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AND BECAUSE OF WHAT HE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN AN UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONSULT WITH THE OTHER ON MATTERS OF CONCERN. HE IN FACT BEGAN HIS JANUARY 31 LETTER BY REFERRING TO THAT UNDERSTANDING. PEREZ IS AN ERRATIC, VOLATILE AND PERSONALLY SENSITIVE PERSON; HE IS QUICK TO TAKE OFFENSE AT IMAGINED OR REAL SLIGHTS. HE HAS EXHIBITED PERCEPTIBLE SURPRISE AND VEXATION OVER THE LACK OF ANY ANSWER TO DATE. THIS REACTION WAS SHARPENED BY THE SIMULANEOUS

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PRESENTATION TO HIM OF A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ON AFRICA.

2. I DO NOT RPT NOT SUGGEST THAT PEREZ' CHAGRIN AT NOT RECEIVING A REPLY TO DATE IS YET OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS. BUT THERE IS NO DOBUT AT ALL THAT SOME OF THE BLOOM IS OFF THE ROSE. SOME REGRET AND DISILLUSIONMENT

HAS CREPT INTO
HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE, AND THAT IS REGRETTABLE ON THE
VIRTUAL EVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT HERE.

3. THEREFORE, I URGE THAT SOME KIND OF PERSONAL REPLY
BE MADE SOON. IT WOULD BE IRONIC INDEED IF THE ERA OF
SPECIAL WARMTH AND GOOD FEELINGS WHICH WAS SET IN MOTION
PRECISELY THE THE RAPIDITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO
PEREZ CONCERN ON THE NYT/CIA ACCUSATIONS LAST YEAR SHOULD
NOW BE COOLED EVEN A LITTLE BIT BY A DELAYED RESPONSE OF
A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE SPEAKING TO ANOTHER PEREZ CONCERN.
VAKY

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NNN

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Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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